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Livestock and Seed Programs Agriculture Marketing Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Stop 0249, Room 2092-S
Washington, DC 20250-0249

Dear USDA,

I'm very concerned about the possibility of the USDA purchasing irradiated meat to serve our children in the school lunch program. We don't know if there are long-term health effects in children who consume irradiated meat. But we do know that laboratory animals have developed problems involving their reproductive systems, genes and cancer. It is absolutely wrong to expose our children to dangers that have existed for lab animals.

My husband and I are pregnant with our first child. When our children are school-age, we have the right to know what they are eating in school and make choices to protect them. Irradiated meat in schools doesn't have to be labeled. This violates our right to know about dangers that might exist for our kids.

The "Big Meat" corporations already operate too laxly, with too little supervision by the government agencies that are supposed to protect us, the public. "Big Meat" corporations need to adopt and follow protocols that guarantee the safety of their product, not find potentially dangerous short-cuts that put profit over the health of the public and our school children. Is the current Administration really intending to use our children like lab rats before the safety of irradiation has been established? I thought the President believed in traditional "family values"; how is this possibly good for anyone but corporations?

It is long-standing scientific principle that when we don't know the risks, it is better to abstain. I strongly urge the USDA to reconsider this decision until such time that the dangers of irradiated meat have been proven unwarranted.

Sincerely,

Erin Sheldon
407 Etna Road
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